

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S- O LRMACFARLANE

APPROVED BY: S/S-O LRMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 225884 TOSEC 270008

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV FROM CAIRO DTD 13 SEPT  
1976 QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 12284

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US IS XE

SUBJ: AMOCO ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ - DEUTCHE TIDE INCIDENT

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6260 (B) CAIRO 12263

1. AS BOTH DEPARTMENT AND TEL AVIV ARE AWARE,  
INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FROM AMOCO/EGYPT  
HAS AT TIMES BEEN EXAGGERATED AND AT OTHER TIMES  
EVEN INCORRECT (AS IN THE CASE OF THE REPORTED  
SIGHTING OF HELICOPTERS ON EVENING AUGUST 31  
WHEN HELICOPTERS WERE, IN FACT, HEARD BUT NOT  
SEEN). WE BELIEVE THESE PROBLEMS ARISE BECAUSE  
OF POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND  
RAS SHUKAIR, AND NOT ANY DELIBERATE FABRICATION  
ON AMOCO'S PART. IN THIS CONNECTION, INCIDENT

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REPORTED BY CRAIG (SEE REF B) INVOLVING DEUTCHE

TIDE, WHICH WAS FLATLY DENIED BY IDF TO DATT IN TEL AVIV, DISTURBED US SINCE IDF CONTACTS SEEMED CERTAIN AMOCO REPORT NOT TRUE. IN ORDER MAKE SURE OF FACTS AS AVAILABLE TO US, EMBOFF TALKED WITH CRAIG SEPTEMBER 12 TO ASK HIM FOR MORE DETAILS OF INCIDENT. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL POINTS PROVIDED ON THAT OCCASION, WHICH SOMEWHAT ALTER VERSION WE REPORTED EARLIER.

2. (A) DEUTCHE TIDE LOG SHOWS SHE WAS IN FACT INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI PATROL BOAT AT 1530 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 10 WHILE PLACING MARKER BUOY AT FOLLOWING LOCATION: 28 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 11.30 SECONDS NORTH 33 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 52.02 SECOND EAST THIS IS LOCATION OF PROPOSED PLATFORM 304-13 OF RAMADAN FIELD WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY. VERBAL EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE IN WHICH PATROL BOAT ORDERED DEUTCHE TIDE TO MOVE TO WEST OF MEDIAN LINE. CRAIG PROMISED US COPY OF LOG ENTRY.

(B) DEUTCHE TIDE'S MAIN MISSION WAS TO REPLACE BUOYS MARKING PIPELINE FROM RAMADAN FIELD TO RAS SHUKAIR WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN SHOT AWAY BY ISRAELI PATROL BOAT. LACK OF BUOYS POSE THREAT TO NAVIGATION AND COULD RESULT IN PIPELINE RUPTURE. LOCATIONS OF BUOYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:  
BUOY NO. 1 275 METERS SOUTH OF RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1  
175 METERS EAST  
BUOY NO. 2 540 METERS SOUTH OF RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1  
375 METERS EAST

RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1 LOCATED AT:  
28 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 31 SECONDS NORTH  
33 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST  
BECAUSE BOTH OF THESE BUOYS ARE APPARENTLY EAST OF MEDIAN LINE, DEUTCHE TIDE COULD NOT REPLACE THEM DUE TO PRESENCE OF ISRAELI PATROL BOAT AND ITS ORDER MOVE TO WEST OF MEDIAN LINE.

(C) IN ADDITION TO SINKING OR TAKING AWAY ALL MARKER BUOYS AT SITE 304 PLUS TWO MENTIONED ABOVE, CRAIG HAS FURTHER REPORTED FROM RAS SHUKAIR CONFIRMING THAT "MOST" OF THE ANCHOR BUOYS AT PLATFORM 1 AND  
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6 WERE ALSO DESTROYED. COORDINATES OF PLATFORM 6 ARE: 28 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 45.5 SECONDS NORTH  
33 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 14.4 SECONDS EAST

3. CRAIG REGRETTED THAT DEUTCH E TIDE HAD MOVED TO SITE 304-13 AT THIS TIME, BUT EMPHASIZED THERE NOTHING UNUSUAL IN THESE OPERATION AND THAT ISRAELIS HAD NOT OBJECTED PREVIOUSLY. HE REITERATED HIS

INTENTION NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER NEW ACTIVITY  
IN THIS AREA UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED. HE WAS  
INSISTENT, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE ISRAELI CLAIMS,  
MARKER BUOYS, MENTIONED ABOVE, AND ASSOCIATED  
WITH ALREADY ESTABLISHED PLATFORMS OF RAMADAN  
FIELD HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND HE HAS EYEWITNESSES  
TO PROVE IT. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED IN  
DUE COURSE, BECAUSE THEY POSIT THREAT TO NAVIGATION.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION REPRESENTS, WE BELIEVE,  
FACTS AS CRAIG HAS THEM. IT CONTINUES BE OUR  
OPINION HE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN KEEPING SITUATION  
UNDER CONTROL BOTH IN INTERESTS ESTABLISHING  
WORKABLE SOLUTION TO CURRENT PROBLEMS, AND IN  
INTERESTS PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY  
UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY.  
MATTHEWS UNQTE ROBINSON

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